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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH: Deputy Director (Intelligence)
SUBJECT: Release of Reports to the Department of Commerce
REFERENCE: Letter from Secretary of Commerce to the DCI,
dated 18 Feb 60

1. This memorandum suggests action on the part of the DCI.
Such requested action is contained in paragraph 6.

2. Secretary Mueller, in his letter to you of 18 Feb 1960, asks
that all intelligence information reports [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] be disseminated to the Department of Commerce on a regular
basis, and points out their potential value to his Department in con-
nection with its responsibility for enforcing the U. S. Export Control
Act. While he acknowledges the value of the steady stream of intelli-
gence information which he has received from CIA, and which he describes
as emanating from the overseas operations of the Agency, he does not
appear to be aware of the fact that his Department already receives a
substantial number of [REDACTED] reports.

3. From the beginning, [REDACTED] has been
based on assurances made [REDACTED] that
CIA has no connection with law enforcement, and that the information
which they voluntarily supply will be closely held within the U. S.
Intelligence community. Many of the non-USIS elements of the Govern-
ment have recognized the potential value to them of reports such as

these, but the Agency has been invariably successful in controlling their dissemination. In addition to the law enforcement aspect, the Agency has also been strongly aware of the necessity of protecting these sources against possible revelation of [REDACTED] information.

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4. In the case of the Department of Commerce, a procedure was established in 1954 between OC, ORE, and OCE whereby a reading panel has screened [REDACTED] information reports on a regular basis against requirements furnished by the Bureau of Foreign Commerce, and each selected report has been checked through the originating field office and source for authority for release to the Department of Commerce. In the vast majority of cases this permission has been granted and the report has been released, generally in sanitized form.

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5. It is believed that certain officials of the Department of Commerce have been under the misapprehension that recent changes in ORE, involving the transfer of the illegal transactions and traders file to the Commercial Intelligence Division of the Bureau of Foreign Commerce, might cause this screening process and release of reports to be discontinued. It would therefore seem advisable to assure Secretary Mueller that this regular release of selected reports can be expected to continue, and to explain why a blanket release of all reports emanating from [REDACTED] would not be possible.

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6. It is recommended that you sign the attached letter.

25X1A

[REDACTED]
Acting Assistant Director for Operations

Attachment: